INFORMATION DATABASE

Consider functionality, appropriateness of format, database content, adequacy of coverage retrospective, current), and value to the California Community Colleges as a whole.
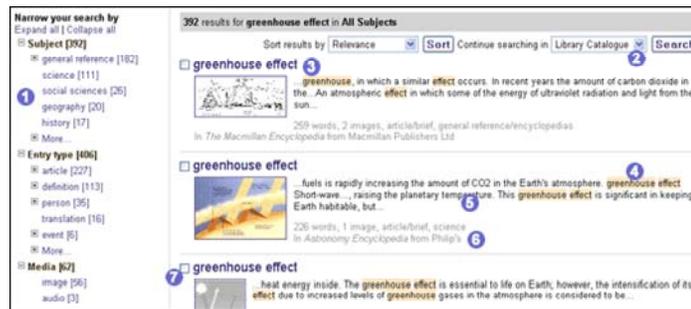
Credo Reference is an online reference library, providing access to the full text of almost four hundred highly regarded and popular titles. Among these are *Marquis Who's Who*, *CIA World Factbook*, *Cambridge Guide to Literature in English, Mosby's Medical Dictionary, and the McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms*. The database includes dictionaries, bilingual dictionaries, thesauri, encyclopedias, quotations and atlases, and a wide range of subject-specific titles covering everything from accounting to zoology. To date, the database contains over three million documents.

SEARCH INTERFACE

Consider the functionality and ease of use of the interface. Is it intuitive or is an excessive amount of training required? Are any crucial features missing from the search interface?

Credo has a basic, simple search screen. A user may search across all Credo subjects or choose to limit a search to one topic, such as Art, Literature, History or Psychology by selecting a subject from the pull-down menu to the right of the search box. The advanced search function provides for Boolean and phrase searching.

Credo's cross-searching capabilities provides for outbound searching of a library's collection of books and selected electronic databases.

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Credo's search results show the length of an entry, number of images, subject and type of entry plus the book from which the result has been taken. This feature helps a user to know what information to expect before clicking. Search results can be limited by subject, type of entry, media, author, or publication date.

The entries within Credo Reference are the electronic equivalent of the articles and definitions of information contained within reference books. Each entry page carries a great deal of information and features that enhance the electronic version. Entry pages include cross references to other relevant information within the same book as that entry.

Articles can be emailed, printed, saved and shared (linked) to a social bookmarking or networking site like Del.icio.us or Facebook. A citation generator found at the bottom of entries generates article citations according to APA, Chicago, MLA or Harvard bibliographic standards.

APA | Chicago | Harvard | MLA   Save citation to
"Nobel Prize." Science in the Early Twentieth Century: An Encyclopedia.   [My saved results ▼] [Go]
Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2005. Credo Reference. 05 February 2009
<http://www.credoreference.com/entry/7915062/.>.

USER SUPPORT SERVICES
Credo provides a toll-free number and email address for help. Help screens and user tutorials on searching, viewing, navigating results are provided. MARC records for all titles are provided to subscribing libraries free of charge.

COST
Pricing information is available on the CCL-EAR Fall 2008 offers page.

AVAILABILITY/ACCESSIBILITY OF SERVICE
Accessibility features provided include accommodations for visually impaired users; a narrative sitemap, and alternate keyboard operations allow the database to be searchable with either keyboard or mouse commands.

FINAL RECOMMENDATION

The final recommendation of this reviewer is that the committee should proceed with a full review or a mini-review of this product.